

The Rape and Murder of Minor Girl Zainab: A Case Study of Pedophilic Sexual Violence in Pakistan

Muhammad Aqib Alam¹, Ahmad Raza², Muhammad Omer Raza³

¹M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Management and Technology (UMT) Lahore, Pakistan.

²Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Management and Technology (UMT) Lahore, Pakistan.

³Visiting Faculty, Department of Sociology, University of Management and Technology (UMT) Lahore, Pakistan.

Correspondence: aqibalam940@gmail.com¹

ABSTRACT

Aim of the Study: This work explores the terrible rape and murder of a little girl, Zainab Ansari, in Kasur, a city in Pakistan, that put the growing epidemic of pedophilic sexual violence and moreover pointed to the lack of child protection in the country. It looks into the domestic cultural, legal and institutional practices that enabled a pedophile to reoffend and brings into sharp focus an urgent need to reform the child protection mechanisms and laws of Pakistan.

Methodology: Employing a case study methodology and anchored on Routine Activities Theory and Feminist Theory, the study stats on structural vulnerabilities and the perpetration of Patriarchal Domination that qualifies a societal culture that embraces silenced/deemed-unsayable child sexual abuse. Sources comprise newspapers, magazines and journals, as well as official police and legal reports in order to present a comprehensive view of institutional and societal adequacy in handling sexual violence.

Findings: The areas that were identified as critical gaps include Lack of police response, community's perception about Child abuse, and delayed response from other units. It asserts inadequacies in the management of the law especially in enforcement, non-reporting of child sexual abuse and conservative proactive measures that characterized the protection systems allowing continuation of the offences. People pushed for social changes and media played an important role in addressing the issue but not much in solving the root cause.

Conclusion: In a nutshell, this study calls for a coordinated multifaceted approach to changes such as enhancing the vigor in the enforcement of laws, increasing awareness among the community as well as reforming the laws that guard Children. Focusing on the obstacles that prevent safety for children in Pakistan both at social level and institutional level, more can be done to prevent recurrence of such calamities in future.

Keywords: Child Sexual Abuse, Pedophilia, Routine Activities Theory, Feminist Theory, Legal Reform, Forensic Capabilities, Societal Stigma, Law Enforcement, Pakistan.

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Introduction

The recent varying case of seven-year-old Zainab Ansari, who was abducted raped and murdered in January 2018 reveals a major flaw in Pakistan's child protection system. It did not only draw the gap in the policing and justice mechanisms but also exposed social and cultural marginalization of child sexual abuse (Mirza, 2018). There are very few reports of child sexual violence in Pakistan because culture and fear of shame prevents the family of the victim from seeking justice for their harassed child. The aspects of child abuse practiced in Zainab's case reiterated how such factors keep on causing a relapse in incidents of child abuse in the country. Criminal theories including Routine Activities Theory explicate why there was inadequate capable guardianship and law enforcement vigilance thus providing room for the likes of Imran Ali, the convicted murderer of Zainab to act (Cohen & Felson, 1979). In addition, Feminist Theory depicts how the patriarchal culture deepens risk in the society by making the female and children as the vulnerable group to be abused and denying the chance to be heard (Bourke, 2007). In this paper, we describe these social and institutional factors through the lens of this study to help inform enhancement and improvement of child protection measures and propel positive societal change in Pakistan. However, this piece zooms into the actions of the Zainab Ansari Case Injustice that led to a formation of a public amplifier which acts as a reminder to the society, that there is need for structural changes on the issue of Child protection. Cultural and social perception of reporting these acts suppress the family from going to report these heinous crimes, but more importantly, institutional challenges within the Pakistani legal and policing systems make it very difficult for victims to get justice. Due to Zainab case some legal changes have occurred such as changes in Child Protection laws of Punjab; still, all are inefficient due to lack of implementation and continuously lack of awareness (Jamil, 2019). This paper uses criminological theories to evaluate both micro and macro-levels of response to child sexual violence and lays down the recommendations for requisite enhanced preventive polices and better legal enforcement, raising public awareness and calling for better policies. This analysis also looks at the Zainab case while at the same time it also offers social critique of the cultural and institutional framework that gives continuity to the violent abuse of children. Thus, under this theoretical framework, the study will help inform ongoing discussions regarding better child protection practices in Pakistan and the changes needed for sound child protection systems that will guarantee the rights and safety of all children.

Purpose of the Case Study

The reason for this case study is to present the shocking and incredibly terrifying story of Zainab Ansari who was raped and killed at the age of seven, in Kasur, Pakistan in January 2018. The case provides insight into the profound crisis of pedophilic sexual assault that is unfolding in Pakistan, forcing profound debate to proceed concerning the congruent and pertinent topics, child protection, legal systems, social awareness, and organized society to safeguard the rights of children. This particular case study is intended to discuss potential causes of such heinous crimes, to evaluate the organizational and legal reactions, and to determine how this case might contribute to the changes in the approach of Pakistan to pedophilic violence. This paper aims to explore the theoretical perspectives from the Sociological point of view in understanding how such situations occur, and more importantly, why such incidents have to go on occurring and possible preventative measures or reforms for Change.

Research Methodology

Case Study Approach

This research employs a case study approach to analyze the tragic case of Zainab Ansari, a minor girl whose rape and murder in Pakistan brought national attention to the issues of pedophilic sexual violence. The case study method is chosen for its ability to facilitate an in-depth, contextual analysis of complex social phenomena, particularly when examining sensitive incidents with unique socio-cultural implications. Through this approach, the study aims to understand the specific circumstances surrounding Zainab's case, the societal reaction, and the legal and systemic responses to the incident. By delving

deeply into this singular case, the research seeks to highlight broader issues in child protection, public safety, and policy in Pakistan.

Archival Records

Archival records provide essential historical context, offering insights into both prior cases of child sexual violence in Pakistan and the legal and societal responses they have elicited. This study examines archival materials, including previous cases, legal documentation, and historical media coverage, to identify patterns and trends in how such incidents have been handled. Analyzing this data offers a foundation for understanding the systemic factors and recurring issues, such as gaps in the judicial process, that may contribute to the prevalence of similar crimes. This historical perspective is intended to reveal persistent challenges and inform possible avenues for policy improvement.

Integrating Case Study and Archival Records

By integrating the case study approach with archival research, this methodology enables a comprehensive examination of the Zainab Ansari case within a broader social and historical framework. The combination of these methods supports an analysis of both specific and systemic factors, revealing insights into the psychological, societal, and institutional dimensions of pedophilic violence. This mixed approach not only allows for a focused study of Zainab's case but also situates it within a broader context, emphasizing the need for preventive measures, policy reform, and societal awareness surrounding child sexual abuse.

Field of Research

The topic of this case study can be associated with Criminology, Sociology, and Gender Studies where the focus of the case is on sexual violence against minorities, pedlobber, pedophilia, and structural factors that predetermine these crimes. The study will compare/contrast the effect of psychological factors that the offenders of pedophilic sexual violence have, and the societal environment in which the crimes take place. Furthermore, the study also encompasses the legal field, especially to understand Pakistan's legal approach towards CSA/M and the socio-media outrage that emerged as a result. There is also the psychological factor that defines the tragedy of victims, their families, and the communities of the given criminals.

Issues and Findings of the Case Study

The death of Zainab and her murder is a depressing incident irrespective of the fact that every case of rape came to light, but it signifies the fact that Pakistan is also a country suffering from a high rate of child abuse. The case brings several critical issues to light:

- **Pedophilic Predation:** The offender Imran Ali was convicted of several other child sexual abuse and murder cases, which brings the question of other serial offenders who are residents in the society (Mirza, 2018). The issue that might be veiled by cultural sanctions, namely, pedophilia, was brought to the forefront.
- **Institutional Failures:** The policemen in this case also responded slower than normal hence prolonging justice and extending the time of the public's wrath. There was negligence in the probe methods; this is because DNA evidence connecting the suspect to previous criminal activity was not optimized (Jamil, 2019).
- **Societal Silence and Stigma:** Sexual abuse has a cultural taboo that keeps families from reporting a perpetrator; thus, it is challenging to determine such sexual predators on time. In Zainab's case, the problem of the family's lack of an opportunity to receive adequate attention from law enforcement, as well as the media, described not only the problem characteristic of the family at large but also the problems of society as a whole.

- **Public Outcry and Media Influence:** This case raised a nationwide outcry for public protests and highly sensitive coverage by media that compelled authorities into action. This reaction proved that the anger of society can work as an efficient tool to change laws or political decisions.
- **Legal Reforms:** From this case some legislative changes were made for example, changes in the child protection laws in Punjab State, however, there is still a huge gap on the implementation and even awareness of such laws.

Theory to be used

The theoretical framework for analyzing this case will draw on Routine Activities Theory (RAT) and Feminist Theory:

- **Routine Activities Theory (RAT):** This theory posits that crimes are likely to happen when there is a motivated offender, a suitable target, and no capable guardian (Cohen & Felson, 1979). In the perspective of crime patterning analysis, Imran Ali had all the motivation to offend and was a motivated offender. In regard to Zainab; she was the perfect victim, an unmotivated, vulnerable child. There is a shortage of capable guardians due to a lack of proper supervision, poor community vigilance plus weakness in the law enforcement systems.
- **Feminist Theory:** What Benefit does Feminist criminology bring to our understanding of Sexual Violence? Hence, patriarchal attitudes contribute to the vulnerability of women and children more easily being abused gains the latter (Bourke 2007). For Zainab, social isolation about sexual violence on minors combined with the culture of gender was seen as the enablers of this act and its concealment for some time.

Assumptions

Given the limited publicly available data on certain aspects of the case, this case study is based on the following assumptions:

- It has been supposed that the time frame offered by media and announcements of police activities is genuine. Newspaper articles show that January 4, 2018 Zainab was kidnapped and on January 9, 2018, her lifeless body was found (Mirza, 2018). The investigations and public protests started shortly after her abduction went viral.
- So assuming that response time of the police was slow because of some formality issues, then one thought is that more action could have been performed right away to lock the culprit before the next crime was committed. Preceding cases of kidnapped children in Kasur must have also never been thoroughly investigated and that is discouraging in light of the regularity of such cases; a symptom of defects in many police departments.
- It has been presupposed that because of the negative cultural and societal attitudes towards child abuse reporting, both the general public awareness, and prevention efforts, remain limited because most of the cases are never reported again out of shame. Based on Jamil, (2019) there is high likelihood that sexual violence in Pakistan is under reported.
- As much as the case seems to have led to limited direct legal change, when othering the case of the death penalty for the perpetrator, deeper structural transformations to ensure that such crimes do not recur remain largely rhetorical more than they are real.

The Zainab rape and murder case is an example of the continuities of the failure of social and legal systems of Pakistan to protect children from sexual abuse. Through the use of the routine activities theory and the feminist theory, the case will help as a basis for understanding the changes that is needed to prevent such crimes, awareness, participation of the community, and changes in the law. The study

therefore stresses on effective implementation of child protection policies, rigorous law enforcement situation, and the absence of cultural barriers to protect children in Pakistan.

Findings

The conclusions regarding the Zainab rape case reveal several profound issues on axis of them that not just disclose the structural and cultural blunders of this precise case but also expose the major organizational, structural, and cultural issues in Pakistan to address the pedophilic sexual violence. These issues will be explored in detail in this section by identifying the problems, substantiated with evidence from the case, theory from criminology, sociology and other related disciplines, and Have and concepts. The discussion will also aim at establishing various issues that lead to continuation of such crimes.

1. Pedophilic Predation and Serial Offending

Another shocking aspect of all the Zainab case is the fact that the man who brutally raped and killed Zainab, Imran Ali, is a serial offender who had raped and killed at least seven other children in Kasur district (Mirza, 2018). This suggests that there is an acute deficiency in the capacity of police organizations to identify and arrest those individuals, who are most likely to reoffend, particularly those offenders who prey on children who are vulnerable.

- **Problem Analysis:** Child sexual abuse is an illegal act perpetrated by an adult with a psychic disorder in which he or she is sexually fixated on prepubescent children. In this case, Imran Ali's attacks on young girls fulfilled all the elements of the typical pattern of serial pedophilia, which involve methodically and selection of victims with the purpose of raping them. This is a testimony that there is something seriously wrong with the police and organizations dealing with child abuse in particular.
- **Relevant Theory:** In RAT perspective, Imran Ali and other pedophiles are known as motivated offenders who always look for opportunities due to the absence of capable guardians in a society (Cohen & Felson, 1979). The ability to commit the same crimes also raised questions on community policing where both police and the public society surveillance and surveillance capacities where were not effective enough.
- **Underlying Problem:** The underlying issue in this case is twofold: first, societal perception of child sexual abuse as an unreal issue, which does not receive proper attention by the society and often cases involving pedophilic behavior are unreported, or understudied; second, lack of efficiency of police investigations, who despite having dna evidence and prior complaints from the residents of the Hancock area could not link Imran Ali to multiple children's disappearances.

2. Institutional Failures in Law Enforcement and Legal Response

According to the Zainab case, the flaws of the law enforcement agencies and criminal justice of Pakistan were magnified. The police response to the case as well as to the pressures of the media was slow and insufficient specially, in the first few days after Zainab was abducted. Further analysis showed that the preceding investigation into missing or murdered children in Kasur took place several times in the past, and those horrible incidents were either covered up or mishandled.

- **Problem Analysis:** Her family complained to the police once Zainab disappeared, but there was no immediate action from the police until the girl's body was found (Mirza, 2018). The children's report was not considered as a priority; this is in line with top official disdain for the safety of children, especially when they are sexual abuse victims. They also did not consider one-biological pattern of offending; however, DNA evidence proved the relationship between many child abuse cases within the same district (Jamil, 2019).
- **Relevant Theory:** Policies mentioned can be explored with the help of the Broken Windows Theory which claims that people neglect, disorder and moral decay in neighborhoods cause more severe

crimes, including the violent sexual offenses (Wilson & Kelling, 1982). In the case of Kasur, the problem of children blackmailers being let off in previous incidences of kidnapping led to many pedophilic crimes going unchallenged.

- **Underlying Problem:** The issue that exists in this area of policing is inadequate funding, support, training and supervision of officers and departments in police departments especially in rural regions. This is because most police officers receive low training on how to handle sensitive cases of child and sexual violence. Also, there is a severe issue of legal and bureaucratic constraints that if present deny the people their rightful justice within the expected timeframe. It is these higher level failures that are exemplified by the much delayed response to Zainab's abduction (Mirza, 2018).

3. Societal Silence and Cultural Stigma

Another problem that was revealed within this case is the presence of cultural taboo regarding sexual violence and specifically child abuse. The families of the victims in many regions of Pakistan, including Kasur, do not report post-child abuse due to the social stigma and shame that embraces them. Not only does this silencing shield the community from potentially changing the behavior early enough but also ensures that the culprits do not feel the opportunity of being reported.

- **Problem Analysis:** Through the Zainab case, people came to realize that raising awareness about sexual violence against children is quite cultures sensitive. In such related settings, families often dread losing their social memberships if they report that their child has been sexually assaulted. Consequently, many victims of pedophilic violence never get justice, and people like Imran Ali take full advantage of such cultures. It is stated that incidences of child abuse in Kasur in particular were only reported to the authorities after a string of children disappeared (Mirza, 2018).
- **Relevant Theory:** Knowledge in Feminist Theory helps in explaining how the subordinate system of patriarchy disempowers women and children among others. This theory has postulated that while most cultures punish sexual transgression, the culture in Pakistan extends this dread to female modesty and honor which discourages families to report sexual violence (Bourke, 2007). These norms contribute to the conditions in which they are almost easy for abusers to do so.
- **Underlying Problem:** The root cause here is the prejudice that society and culture place on the sexual abuse and therefore, discussions on the same, are strongly frowned upon. It also has an effect of those not reporting or coming out in public to recount their ordeal while it also denies communities the chance of identifying such behavior. Lacking social concern and concern by fellow members of society, somebody like Imran Ali's can go scot-free or merely get reported.

4. Media Influence and Public Outcry

The Zainab case not only captivated the nation and the International community but it also made some of the distinctive gendered and stereotyped societal norms and the media come out clearly. Despite inactivity of the police that arrived at the scene initially, people's awareness of the case due to media coverage as well as protests staged by the public challenged the police to act. It led to a state and national concern focusing on advocating for change in both legal frameworks protecting the children and increased implementation of the existing laws.

- **Problem Analysis:** A self-organized search for justice pursued by the media and the public also shows the opportunities and challenges of media involvement in this or that process. On one hand, lenses of media coverage intensified and exposed the inefficiencies in police and also accelerated legal proceedings including Imran Ali's execution. On the other hand, the media coverage distorts the scale of the problem by overemphasizing the issue and blocking the general work on achieving systematic changes to prevent future offenses (Mirza, 2018).
- **Relevant Theory:** Public Choice Theory enables one to explain how political and institutional reactions to crimes, including, and up to murder of Zainab, are likely to be influenced by public and

media opinion rather than policy stability. Political leaders and police forces were more responsive than assertive in addressing the matters of social concerns particularly child safeguarding (Jamil, 2019).

- **Underlying Problem:** In this case the issue that needs to be addressed here revolves round the fact that the actions of these institutions are usually in response to the vice. As a matter of fact, the sexual abuse of women was brought to light, and the perpetrators were brought to justice due to spoofs and outrage by public and media journalists respectively but these are momentary actions that cannot bring about a change in culture and policy. Obviously, in the event of eradicating such measures there will be circumstances similar to the one wherein Zainab has been tortured.

Consequently, this case study exposes how psychological, social and organizational factors create and foster the rationality of pedophilic sexual violence in Pakistan. The story of Zainab Ansari is a tragic story that highlights the underlying predatory problems in the system for and the culture surrounding child protection. Thus, it is clear that organized effort should be made in respect to these problems by enhancing enforcement of the existing laws, changes in the laws and social awareness.

Discussion

Major Problems Identified

Analyzing the case of Zainab rape, main problems of the legal, cultural and institutional levels of Pakistan were revealed. The following are the major problems identified:

- **Institutional Failures in Law Enforcement:** There were weaknesses exhibited by law enforcement in the investigation of cases of children disappearance which resulted into denial of justice. Laying blame on the local police of Kasur to have overlooked a number of other similar child abduction and murders that took place in the same area, authorities did not link Imran Ali with those heinous crimes despite a plethora of DNA evidence (Mirza, 2018). This has a pointer to a system that has not invested in training and or technology within the criminal justice system.
- **Cultural Stigma and Silence around Sexual Abuse:** In Pakistan, situation and culture shame families if they come forward for sexual abuse especial in the cases of minor children. These horrors are the types which keep on moving around with long arms scaring the families of the victims and allow shame and of course while predators like Imran Ali keep on doing their business without any accountability (Jamil, 2019).
- **Reactive Rather Than Proactive Institutional Response:** It was the public outcry and media that compelled authorities to act on Zainab's Case not the other way round. This demonstrates a general phenomenon in which child protection is only pursued after massive pressure from the public (Mirza, 2018). Much preparation such as raising awareness and enhanced implementation of child protection laws were evident in absence before the case hit the news.

Alternative Solutions to the Major Problems

In order to eliminate these problems, there are the following possible solutions. Both solutions have their own benefits and DE profits that have to be considered further in order to make a proper choice.

1. Enhancing the Police and Criminalistics Efficiency

A most needing solution is increasing ability of police and prosecutors in handling cases of sexual violence against children. Enhancing engagements in police practice on what can be viewed as forensic and investigative educations for police personnel especially when dealing with sensitive cases involving children. Although using the new generation forensic science like DNA, tracking database etc better connect serial offenders. When police force efficiency is enhanced, it will also lead to faster suspect identification and arrest, reducing incidence rates (Mirza, 2018). Forensic tools could take offenders to

other scenes making it solve more cases and also provide better evidential/value in court. It involves major purchase of police capacity building; police equipment, as well as technology, which may be costly especially in poverty stricken or rural areas. Change at organizational level would require some time to achieve for big scale and it may not yield instant returns for several years.

Strengthening Law Enforcement and Forensic Capabilities

One of the most pressing solutions is to improve the capacity of law enforcement to investigate and prosecute cases of sexual violence against children. This could involve:

- Increasing forensic and investigative training for police officers, especially in handling sensitive cases involving children.
- Implementing modern forensic technology, such as DNA testing and tracking databases, to link serial offenders more effectively.

Advantages:

- Improved law enforcement capabilities would result in quicker identification and apprehension of offenders, preventing repeat offenses (Mirza, 2018).
- The use of forensic tools could link offenders to multiple crimes, closing unsolved cases and providing more conclusive evidence in court.

Disadvantages:

- This solution requires significant investment in police training, technology, and resources, which may not be feasible in poorer or rural regions.
- It would take time to implement changes on a large scale, and immediate results may not be visible for several years.

2. Community Awareness and Education Campaigns

The other intervention strategy is to directly challenge the cultural disbelief and disbelief on Child Sexual Abuse by undertaking public awareness and Public Enlightenment campaigns to de-sensitize the society on the issue. Increase awareness of Parent and communities especially on signs of abuse and reportage to the legal authorities. Encourage child protection and child abuse reporting by destigmatizing social and criminal reports of these offenses. Legal change might also play an important role in giving families a reason to report sexual crimes against their children because they are no longer permanently stigmatized as child abusers (Jamil, 2019). Knowledge enhances the ability of the community to recognize the potential predator of the children before they are groomed. Advocating and implementing change in sub-cultural paradigms takes time and will meet with some resistance, especially in the developing countryside. If not supported simultaneously by legislative changes in other areas of law and enhancement of law enforcement, rising number of victims will merely burden an already overtaxed judicial structuring awareness and education campaigns aimed at reducing societal silence on the issue. These campaigns could:

- Educate parents and communities on the signs of abuse and the importance of reporting such cases to authorities.
- Promote open discussions about child protection and abuse, reducing the stigma and shame associated with reporting these crimes.

Advantages:

- By reducing the cultural stigma surrounding child abuse, families may be more willing to come forward when their children are victims of sexual violence (Jamil, 2019).

- Increased awareness can help communities identify and protect children from potential predators before they strike.

Disadvantages:

- Changing deep-rooted cultural attitudes is a long-term effort and may face resistance, particularly in conservative rural areas.
- Without concurrent legal reforms and law enforcement improvements, increased reporting may overwhelm an already strained justice system.

3. Implementing Stricter Child Protection Laws

Legal changes which are expected to enhance child protection may also be effective deterrent measures the works of different law makers may also act as a discouragement to would be offenders. Proposing new measures to increase penalties for offenders convicted of child abuse that included a life sentence or death penalty for those who have been convicted previously. Setting up of court structures and tribunals to facilitate the trial of child abusive offences especially when such offences occur, so that justice can be delivered on time. Fifty percent argue that; we could potentially have even harder laws implemented so individuals who are inclined to sexually abuse children refrain themselves (Mirza, 2018). It is hypothesized that having specialized piercing courts can fasten delivery of justice, thus minimize the pain, child victims and their families experience while waiting for long and tedious trials. Even though there are likely to be improvements in reporting and reducing offender recidivism, the problem really is the failure to enforce existing laws could involve:

- Introducing harsher penalties for crimes against children, including mandatory life sentences or the death penalty for repeat offenders.
- Creating specialized courts and tribunals for the swift trial of child abuse cases, ensuring timely justice.

Advantages:

- Stricter laws could act as a deterrent for potential offenders, reducing the incidence of child sexual abuse (Mirza, 2018).
- Specialized courts could ensure faster resolution of cases, reducing the trauma that child victims and their families often endure during lengthy legal battles.

Disadvantages:

- While harsher penalties may deter some offenders, the root problem lies in the enforcement of existing laws. Without better law enforcement, stricter laws alone may have limited impact.
- The focus on punitive measures does not address prevention or societal awareness, which are essential for long-term solutions.

4. Establishing Child Protection Units and Helplines

Realizing out of police forces and child protection committees within communities is one of the ways of ensuring closure between the law enforcing agencies and the public. Act as the first respondents in cases where families expect child abuse and do not have to involve the police. Provide the opportunity to undergo psychological counseling, legal assistance and accompanying a victim and her family, with reference to existing legislation. Depending on the case, child protection units can respond far more rapidly than the police offering localized protection to troubled families and possibly prevent heedless cases before they occur (Jamil, 2019). One way to reduce the trauma of the victim and the family, and promote justice is to provide an opportunity to receive legal advice. Such system would involve extensive

planning and financial support especially due to limited resource availability in rural areas. That is, if not well monitored, then, such units are likely to degenerate into mere administrative structures which may not have much of a substantive impact in the fight against child abuse public. These units would:

- Serve as immediate points of contact for families to report suspected abuse without having to go through the police.
- Offer psychological counseling and legal support to victims and their families, guiding them through the legal process.

Advantages:

- Child protection units can provide immediate, localized support to families, potentially catching cases before they escalate (Jamil, 2019).
- Offering counseling and legal aid can help mitigate the trauma faced by victims and their families, encouraging them to pursue justice.

Disadvantages:

- This solution would require considerable logistical coordination and funding, particularly in rural areas where resources are scarce.
- Without proper oversight, these units risk becoming bureaucratic entities, with limited real impact on child protection efforts.

The Zainab rape case has brought into modicum, number of systemized and cultural issues that promote pedophilic violence in Pakistan. Of course one could imagine that increasing investment in police and forensic services would directly produce the largest changes – as it would – However, societal change is also necessary. Yes, awareness campaigns, enhanced laws to protect children and creating more child protection units could work, but each of the solutions has its strength and limitations. In efforts to reduce risks faced by children, such measures can only be effectively implemented, if both the prevention and punitive punishment approaches are applied.

Conclusion

The future of pedophilic sexual violence still remains quite grim and bleak for Pakistan and other such societies where justice fails the victims and the laws keep proving ineffective in providing necessitate justice to the aggrieved women and children. When the analysis of this case is performed it is necessary to reveal several crucial findings and solutions necessary to avoid other sad scenarios like that.

The primary findings from the Zainab case underscore both the systemic and societal failures in addressing pedophilic violence:

- **Institutional Failures in Law Enforcement:** One of the most conspicuous failings signposted in the case was perceived to be the inability of police forces in protecting the abused children. This involved late responses, lack of following up individuals who re-offend and poor use of forensic evidence. These institutional weaknesses enable Imran Ali to continue his crimes for quite a long time before being noticed (Mirza, 2018). The following factors: Lack of requisite tools and equipment as well inadequate investigation proficiency all contributed to this failure.
- **Cultural Silence and Stigma:** Other major issue included social and cultural barriers to reporting child sexual abuse. Most families end up withdrawing their complaints because of the stigma that comes with the acts meaning that scoundrels like Imran Ali get to continue with their acts. The section on culture bar keeps silent on matters concerning sexual violence particularly on children, thus, allowing the crimes to go unnoticed and unheard (Jamil, 2019).

- **Reactive Rather Proactive Responses:** The case also described the institutionalized approach grew for protecting children in the Pakistan that was always in the ruling. Police and media activism led to law enforcement action but the absence of preventive action before the murder of Zainab was evidence of a more extensive lack of Police commitment to child protection. Such a confidential and reactive approach shows that there is a dire need for more robust measures to be put in place to protect such criminals from committing their offences in the first place (Mirza, 2018).

Summary of Discussion and Alternative Solutions

Several alternative solutions to these problems were discussed, each offering different approaches to addressing the core issues:

- **Strengthening Law Enforcement and Forensic Capabilities:** If more attention were paid on improving the abilities, equipment, nodes and tools the police forces across the countries the cases of child sexual abuse could be investigated and prosecuted efficiently. While this solution would entail both capital and time intensive expenditure the upside would include accurate investigations with minimized chances of relapse (Mirza, 2018).
- **Community Awareness and Education Campaigns:** Conducting public awareness and educations programs as means for eradicating the perceived culture of child sexual abuse was recommended as another solution. These campaigns would assist in changing the social culture which Putnam says deters families into reporting abuse with no feeling of shame. Nonetheless, altering culture requires more time than anything and that is why it has taken so many years of fighting for women's rights (Jamil, 2019).
- **Stricter Child Protection Laws and Specialized Courts:** Making the consequences of crimes against children severe, and establishing fast-track courts for trying such cases can also work as preventatives with added benefits of giving justice on time. Thus, legal reforms, including legal changes without further changes on the enforcement side may not be sufficient to address the incidence of such crimes (Mirza, 2018).
- **Establishing Child Protection Units and Helplines:** The proposal of forming the child protection units that will act as a bridge between the families and police was highlighted so as to be assured that the victim has the support he/she needs right from the start. It could be designed to avail legal services, consult people psychologically, and more importantly, create a platform for reporting abuse. In turn, this solution would only work if it had proper supervision and funding to be implemented (Jamil, 2019).

The social problem of pedophilic sexual violence in Pakistan mainly covers the organizational and community antecedents of the Zainab rape case. Thus, even though the improvement of law enforcement and increasing the capabilities of forensic services may produce higher chances of the offenders' arrest, the shift in organizational culture is also required to enhance reporting. Further, legal changes including enhanced harsh penalties and/proper courts can develop a comprehensive justice system that would encourage the protection of children.

But more importantly one needs to realize that there is no one intervention that would solve the problem of pedophilic violence. However, to design the protective environment for children in Pakistan, it is possible to speak about the necessity to utilize the wide ranging comprehensive approach which includes legal reform, social education, and institutional development. Failure to do so, the murder of Zainab Ansari and other children will keep on acting as a pointer to the lapse of the existing system.

Recommendations

The following solutions have been provided considering the outcomes and analysis of the Zainab rape case to begin to address for systemic and societal deficiencies that perpetuate pedophilic violence in

Pakistan: Therefore, the most hopeful and effective course of action long-term would require some increase in police capacity, improved forensic services, intensive and coordinated public sensitization programs, and enhanced legislation to protect children. All of these solutions if implemented would lead to seamless setup to deter, identify, and punish such offences.

Recommended Solution: Strengthening Law Enforcement and Forensic Capabilities

The initial key recommendation is to enhance the competence of law enforcement agencies in investigation and forensic systems. Such flaws include inability to link the previous crimes to the same culprit in the Zainab case because of poor application of forensic evidence (Mirza, 2018) this is a call for imposing a modern forensic technology. Equipment in the form of polymerase chain reaction kits for DNA testing, case linkage through databases, and training for child sexual abuse specific forensic investigations should now be funded.

- **Justification:** The police force has to be stronger and better equipped because fast identification of offenders minimize chances of drug related crimes by them. Thus, similar to many developed countries with effective networks of forensic laboratories, the connections through database linking in DNA and digital scenes have enhanced the rates of crime solving (Walsh et al. 2015). In the case of Zainab, if the police collected DNA samples of the culprit Imran Ali, they might link him with other girls had they arrived earlier.
- **Addressing the Major Problems:** It eradicates institutional injustice as a cause that contributed to mishandling of the Zainab case. Better forensic facilities would not only give the police what they require for formulation of cases but also enhance the effectiveness for solution of various cases; it would also deter potential offenders since they would believe that law enforcement entities possess the means to apprehend them within the shortest time possible. Moreover, intuitive have superior police departments that reduce many of the above delays and shortages found in the Zainab case where weeks were lost before any development took place (Mirza 2018).

Recommended Solution: Launch Comprehensive Community Awareness Campaigns

The second big suggestion is regarding cultural silence and stigma around CSA; there should be mass sensitization and awareness programs. One of the key prerequisites for ensuring that more victims and their families come forward is the gradual modification of people's perceptions of this issue (Jamil, 2019).

- **Justification:** When the general public is informed of child sexual abuse, what it really is and how individuals can report an abuse incident may lead to increased reporting and community participation in child protection. The campaigners used similar campaigns like the UK's "Stop It Now!" and found out that these have raised the level of awareness as well as reporting of the acts (Elliott, 2017). Whereas in Pakistan it is highly embarrassing for the people of the grassroots level to discuss any issues in relation to sexual matters then this kind of outreach would revolutionize campaigning and enable the communities themselves to play their part much effectively in protection of children.
- **Addressing the Major Problems:** High Charger campaigns would demystify the culture of silence in families as to deny abuse and thereby help to unmask the monsters like Imran Ali who went undetected because families uphold such culture. These campaigns would also have a proactive function in preventing abuse because raising awareness of early warning signals, encouraging supervision, and taking into account that the community has a role to play in child safety will deter parents and children from allowing abuse to happen.

Recommended Solution: Implement Stricter Child Protection Laws

Last but not the least, it becomes pertinent to add that to welcome decisive and severe measures against the offenders, new and stricter child protection laws should be enacted as well as the enhanced legal

sanctions concerning sexual abuse of children, including obligatory severe punishment for the sexual offenders, new combination of efficient punitive measures, construction of special courts to address child sexual abuse cases, etc.

- **Justification:** Legal reform would give stronger signal to the offenders precisely what is expected of them to end the vice of child sexual abuse. The current proposal would increase the severity of the punishment in cases of child abuse in the belief that, for such an offense, life imprisonment or even the capital penalty should be implemented for repeat offenders (Jamil, 2019). Further, the proposal to form distinct courts for child sexual abuse would mean that such cases pass through the legal system faster than it does at the moment, thus sparing families of victims further extra-suffering from long court proceedings.”
- **Addressing the Major Problems:** This way the existing passive attitude of Pakistani laws could be addressed with an inclusion of stricter laws and the newly created pedophilic violence courts, respectively. This would help discourage offenders and as well help in the prevention of delay in delivering justice to the children in question.

Integration of Theory and Coursework

According to Routine Activity Theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979), crime occurs when three elements converge: an inappropriate place, a suitable target and a motivated offender and the lack of a capable guardian. In the Zainab case, Imran Ali was a motivated offender with easy access to Children and since there are no capable guardians to supervise or monitor Children’s activities, due to negligent police and ordinance work and lack of public sympathy and outcry, he continued to sexually abuse Children. Expanding the number of capable guardians as well as enhancing police performance through the awareness campaigns would disturb this convergence.

In addition from a criminological point of view Deterrence Theory by Beccaria (1764) stated that crime could be eliminated if the punishment is prompt; sure; and severe. The law enforcement agencies can make the offenders understand the hard consequences that will follow once they engage in child abuse acts via implementing strict punishment, and unique trial and appellate courts to deal with child abuse cases.

Thus, summing up, one can point out that as long as they are rooted in the systems and cultures of the Pakistani society, there are no singular key to unlock the door for protection of little boys and girls from pedophilic violence. Enhancing the capacity and efficiency of police agencies and forensic services shall impact on crime prevention and investigation. At the same time, extensive public awareness campaigns will help to lift the lid on child sexual abuse, promote child protection and deter society. Last, but not the least, new stricter legislation regarding child protection as well as appearance of specialized courts will guarantee that justice will be served promptly and closely. These measures together give the best opportunity to avoid other tragic situations like Zainab, and make the situation of children in Pakistan safer.

Implementation

For all the recommendations highlighted herein including law enforcement agency reforms, community sensitization, and the enactment of more rigid laws on child protection, a blueprint is required. The steps that should be followed are as follows with the person/role, date/ timeframe and time and cost estimate.

1. Secure Justice Assets and Equipment

What should be done?

Police departments need sophisticated forensic instruments and should be prepared for Child Sexual Abuse investigations. The Pakistan government, in collaboration with international forensic experts and donor agencies, should implement the following:

- **Forensic Training Programs:** Police and investigators must undergo set compulsory training regarding child abuse cases and possibilities of forensic samples including DNA, and how to deal with vulnerable victims.
- **Forensic Lab Upgrades:** Provide for highly equipped forensic laboratories all over Pakistan so that DNA samples and all micro-narratives are well analyzed and expedited. Further, a national DNA database of convicted sexual offenders should be created for the purpose of casework connivances.

Who should do it?

The responsibility for these actions lies with:

- Ministry of Interior and Law Enforcement Agencies: Management of other functions regarding recruitment, selection, appointment, training, and development of officers.
- Provincial Police Departments: Conducting training at the grass root level.
- National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA): He is responsible for the setting up of a national DNA database. The basic forensic courses should have started within six months and complete forensic trained police officers in all the districts of Pakistan should take about 12 to 18 months. Modernization of forensic laboratories should be accomplished within two years. Lengthening law enforcement, conducting community awareness campaigns, and introducing stricter child protection laws a structured plan is needed. The following steps outline what should be done, by whom, and by when, alongside an estimate of the financial and time costs.

By when:

- Forensic training programs should begin within six months, with a target of fully trained law enforcement officers across all districts in 12 to 18 months.
- Upgrading forensic labs should be completed in two years.

Estimated Costs:

- **Training costs:** Training programs will cost an estimated PKR 500 million (approx. USD 3.25 million) across the country, including training material, international forensic consultants, and overheads.
- **Forensic lab upgrades:** Upgrading of the many forensics laboratories and the creation of a national DNA data base would cost at least PKR two Billion for two years as at 2004 and 2005.

2. Launching Comprehensive Community Awareness Campaigns

What should be done?

It is proposed to conduct large-scale campaigns throughout the territory of the country aimed at involving parents, children, and communities in discussion and prevention of child sexual abuse. The campaign should include:

- **Mass Media Campaigns:** Television, radio and social media platforms should be used to relay to the public information regarding signs of abuse, reporting procedures and ways that families can protect their children.
- **School Programs:** Establish classes in schools regarding child protection and create parent and teacher meetings, training sessions.

- **Community Outreach:** Some people in rural areas may not be able to fully comprehend what the media is telling them, therefore select clergy and barons, chiefs and local NGO's to pass on more information.

Who should do it?

- **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting:** Leading the team that produced the media broadcast.
- **Ministry of Education:** Angela Hope and Alison Phippen discuss the challenges of organized school based programs on child protection.
- **Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs):** Cooperation on education programs for the residents of rural areas

By when:

- The media campaign should be launched within three months, with a full-scale rollout completed in six months.
- School programs and rural outreach initiatives should be implemented in phases, with full national coverage within 12 months.

Estimated Costs:

- **Media campaign:** Television and Radio Programs' expenses, social network and printed advertisement are likely to cost not over PKR 1.5 Billion (approximately USD 9.75 Million).
- **School programs:** The creation of helpful literature and organizing of the seminars would cost the company PKR 500 million (USD 3.25 million).
- **NGO partnership:** Seminars and workshops carried out in rural contexts is expected to reach PKR 300 million (approximately USD 1.95 million).

3. Introducing Stricter Child Protection Laws

What should be done?

Another legislative reforming program should be passed to serve measures to increase sentencing severity of child sexual abuse as well as to provide for establishment of specialized courts to ensure the delivery of justice for children. The reform package would include:

- **Harsher Penalties:** Life imprisonment or death penalty for a recidivist.
- **Specialized Child Protection Courts:** Create new courts that would specialize in children's cases, and assure the fast trial as well as proper treatment of young complainants.
- **Mandatory Reporting Laws:** Propose legislations mandating anyone who comes across a child abuse situation such as teachers, doctors, and social workers to report the same.

Who should do it?

- **Parliament:** Propose and enact the required changes in the legislation.
- **Judiciary:** The president is obliged to establish and supervise the specialized courts.
- **Ministry of Law and Justice:** While awaiting the new legislators, the MPRC and LAC should draft and implement the new laws.

By when:

- The legislative package should be introduced in three to six months, with the aim of passing and implementing it within one year.
- Specialized courts should be established across Pakistan's major cities within two years, with gradual expansion to all provinces.

Estimated Costs:

Legislative reform costs: There are really no significant overhead expenses related to drafting the legislation but most of the expense would go to the creation of the new courts. It is envisaged that it will cost PKR 1 billion (approx. USD 6.5 million) for the initial establishment and operation of the specialized courts across the country in the first two years.

Timeframe and Accountability

The police modernization, public enlightenment, and legal amendment works, and other components of the implementation plan, would take one to two and a half years in total. The plan should be incremental in the sense that there are short-term actions, for example, the implementation of the media campaign and the provision of forensic training, mid-term actions which include creation of forensic laboratories and lastly the setting of new courts.

The Prime Minister's Office with the support of the Ministry for Law and Justice and Ministry of Interior should be responsible for the whole implementation process. Ministries should prepare and submit their quarterly reports where they are supposed to indicate their accomplishments, the progress delays and issues concerning their ministries.

Conclusion

The proposed implementation plan provides a clear, structured, and practical roadmap for addressing pedophilic sexual violence in Pakistan. Pakistan must thereby work towards creating a protective structure with support from law enforcement reforms and social awareness, supplementary with new and stringent laws. While it entails big financial and time burden, the issue of a possible number of lost lives that could be spared and generations to be safeguarded are worth an investment and hence a national priority.

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ORCID iDs

Muhammad Aqib Alam ¹  <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-2662-7658>

Ahmad Raza ¹  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0657-908X>

Muhammad Omer Raza ¹  <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-6931-4028>

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